

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response filed 5/13/2008 to reconsider the claims 1-10, 19-54 and 65 for allowance is entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, pages 20-23, filed 5/13/2008, with respect to claims 1-10, 19-54 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-10 and 19-54 has been withdrawn.

Drawings

3. Drawings filed 6/18/2001 are accepted.

4. During a telephone interview on 7/30/2008 the applicant's attorney Mr. P. G. Scott agreed to cancel claims 1-10 and 19-25 in a co-pending application 11/929744 (this preliminary amendment cancelling claims 1-10 and 19-25 in the co-pending application 11/929744 is already filed on date 8/4/2008.) and thereby precluding an obviousness type double patenting rejection of claims 1-10 and 19-54 & 65.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. P. G. Scott Born on 7/30/2008. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 11-18 and 55-65 are currently canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-10 and 19-54 are allowed in view of the applicant's arguments filed 5/13/2008. The applicant's arguments (see Remarks, pages 20-23) are both compelling and persuasive that the prior art of Crosby et al. (US Patent 6,628,928) and Jackson (US Patent 6,516,466), either alone or combined, does not anticipate or render obvious the independent claims 1, 19, 27, 37,44,47,48, and 49.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex/Hoteling.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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